REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 are pending and rejected in this application.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,536,612 (Domigan), Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors (Figs. 1 and 2) including a main housing 2 having sidewalls 4 and 5 (column 1, lines 31-33). Sidewalls 4 and 5 of the power sections each are provided with apertures to mount wire connectors 27 and 28. Conductors 30 and 31 connect the respective wire connectors 27 and 28 and receptacles 21 and 22 (column 2, lines 12-16). There is a power-through feature in that connector 27 is a power-in connector and connector 28 is a power-out connector thereby allowing a daisy chain connection of multiple boxes (column 3, lines 6-15 and the Figs.).

The Examiner further refers to U.S. Patent No. 4,857,016 (Benscoter et al.). Applicant respectfully submits that the citing of an additional reference for an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper and should cause the incident Office Action to be a non-final Office Action.

Benscoter et al. disclose a component for flexible wiring systems (Figs. 1, 2 and 2A) including a socket contact 21 that is disposed in cavity 16 with joinder head 26 in bore 23 of shield section 5. Intermediate body 28 is in bore 24 of contact mounting section 14 and crimp head 27 is in bore 25 of the contact crimp section. Contact 21 is supported in contact mounting section 13 with intermediate body 32 having spring fingers 33 and tabs 34. The contact/conductor assembly is mounted in the wire connector by inserting joinder head 26 into bore 25 and pushing it into bore 24. Spring fingers 33 collapse to accommodate bore 24. Inward motion is continued until tabs 34 engage shoulder 34b. At that time fingers 33 are released from bore 24 and extend

outwardly so that if contact is pulled in the opposite direction the fingers will engage shoulder 24a (column 4, lines 36-53).

In contrast, claim 1, recites in part:

> at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of said housing.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Domigan, Benscoter et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by wires to receptacles 21 and 22, respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box. Domigan does not show a connector that is directly connected to either connector 27 or 28 on the inside of the box to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured. Domigan does not illustrate or disclose a connector directly connected to connector 27, which the Examiner has indicated to be a pass-through connector. While the Examiner has argued that contact 21 of Benscoter et al. is releasably directly connected to a pass-through connector, Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner has indicated that connector 21 can be disconnected from the connector by compressing spring fingers 33 located in the cable connector and pushing the cable connector out of the connector. In contrast, Benscoter et al. indicates that if contact 21 is pulled in the opposite direction the fingers engage shoulder 24a to prevent the removal of contact 21 from connector 1. To follow the Examiner's suggestion would be such that it would require access to both sides of connector 27 and the use of some unidentified tool to compress fingers 33, since they are clearly not compressible by the human hand. This would require access to one side of connector 27 while someone would pull the wire from the other side

of connector 27. This operation is not practical and even if possible would be contrary to the common understanding of the definition of a connector. A connector is defined as, "a fixture (either male or female) attached to a cable or chassis for quickly mating and breaking one or more circuits." (*The Illustrated Dictionary of Electronics,* 6th Edition, Copyrighted 1994 by TAD Books, McGraw Hill, Inc.). The operation suggested by the Examiner is contrary to this definition in that even if the Examiner's operation could be carried out, it could not be quickly carried out for the making or breaking of one or more electrical circuits. In contrast to the references cited by the Examiner, Applicant's invention does not require rewiring of the internal portion of a floor box to accomplish the separation of wires, rather Applicant's invention includes a separation of connectors. For example, in Domigan access through opening 50 may allow an operator to remove screws holding receptacles 21 and 22 in position. However, wires 30 and 31 which connect, respectively, with connectors 27 and 28 remain connected in connectors 27 and 28 and are not disconnectable from connectors 27 and 28 apart from access to the other side of connectors 27 and 28, as discussed above. In contrast, Applicant's invention complies with the common understanding of the word 'connector' and the electrical cable connector is releasably directly connected to the pass-through connector on the inside of a housing. Therefore, Domigan, Benscoter et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited references, in that the pass-through connector allows for the quick disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disengaging a connector that is connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 5, 9 and 15 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 10, recites in part:

> a pass-through connector ... releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Domigan, Benscoter et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by wires to receptacles 21 and 22, respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box. Domigan does not show a connector that is directly connected to either connector 27 or 28 on the inside of the box to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured. Domigan does not illustrate or disclose a connector directly connected to connector 27, which the Examiner has indicated to be a pass-through connector. While the Examiner has argued that contact 21 of Benscoter et al. is releasably directly connected to a pass-through connector, Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner has indicated that connector 21 can be disconnected from the connector by compressing spring fingers 33 located in the cable connector and pushing the cable connector out of the connector. In contrast, Benscoter et al. indicates that if contact 21 is pulled in the opposite direction the fingers engage shoulder 24a to prevent the removal of contact 21 from connector 1. To follow the Examiner's suggestion would be such that it would require access to both sides of connector 27 and the use of some unidentified tool to compress fingers 33, since they are clearly not compressible by the human hand. This would require access to one side of connector 27 while someone would pull the wire from the other side of connector 27. This operation is not practical and even if possible would be contrary to the

common understanding of the definition of a connector. A connector is defined as, "a fixture (either male or female) attached to a cable or chassis for quickly mating and breaking one or more circuits." (*The Illustrated Dictionary of Electronics,* 6th Edition, Copyrighted 1994 by TAD Books, McGraw Hill, Inc.). The operation suggested by the Examiner is contrary to this definition in that even if the Examiner's operation could be carried out, it could not be quickly carried out for the making or breaking of one or more electrical circuits. In contrast to the references cited by the Examiner, Applicant's invention does not require rewiring of the internal portion of a floor box to accomplish the separation of wires, rather Applicant's invention includes a separation of connectors. For example, in Domigan access through opening 50 may allow an operator to remove screws holding receptacles 21 and 22 in position. However, wires 30 and 31 which connect, respectively, with connectors 27 and 28 remain connected in connectors 27 and 28 and are not disconnectable from connectors 27 and 28 apart from access to the other side of connectors 27 and 28, as discussed above. In contrast, Applicant's invention complies with the common understanding of the word 'connector' and the electrical cable connector is releasably directly connected to the pass-through connector on the inside of a housing. Therefore, Domigan, Benscoter et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of an underfloor receptacle box, as recited in claim 10.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited references, in that the pass-through connector allows for the quick disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disengaging a connector that is connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10 and claims 11, 12 and 14 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 6-8 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Domigan in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,041 (Bowman). However, claims 6-8 depend from claim 1, and claim 13 depends from claim 10, and claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6-8 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on: February 10,2005.

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February 10, 2005
Date